

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2639

INFO USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 5227

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NI, US, UN

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN VIEWS ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH USUN OFFICER ON APRIL 11, UN PERMREP HARRIMAN AND GENEVA PERMREP CLARK DISCUSSED NIGERIAN VIEWS ON CURRENT DISARMAMENT ISSUES. THE DISCUSSIONS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS: THE NPT REGIME, NON-ALIGNED VIEWS ON NON-PROLIFERATION, THE YUGOSLAV PAPER ON NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD), WDC, CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS, THE UN COMMITTEE OF 25, CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW), AND US DISARMAMENT POLICY.

2. THE NPT REGIME - HARRIMAN SAID THAT NIGERIA WAS CONSIDERING GIVING NOTICE OF ITS INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE NPT AND URGING OTHER NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES TO DO THE SAME. HE SAID THAT THE NPT FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES WAS OF LITTLE VALUE SINCE A NUMBER OF KEY COUNTRIES HAD REFUSED TO ADHERE TO IT. USUN OFFICER RESPONDED THAT THIS WOULD BE A HIGHLY DISTURBING DEVELOPMENT. THE US WAS COMMITTED TO
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STRENGTHENING THE NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME AND ASSISTING COUNTRIES WHICH ADHERED TO IT TO SHARE THE BENEFITS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. (HARRIMAN KNEW OF, BUT HAD NOT YET READ, THE PRESIDENT'S APRIL 7 STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR POLICY.)

3. NON-ALIGNED VIEWS ON NON-PROLIFERATION - CLARK NOTED

THE AVERSION OF THE NACC TO ANY MENTION OF EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THE NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME. IMPORTANT NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES WOULD REFUSE TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH ANY NACC STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT SINCE THEY DID NOT INTEND TO SIGN THE NPT. THE PROBLEM OF PROLIFERATION, CLARK SAID, WOULD NOT BE RESOLVED BY FURTHER TECHNICAL EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS, TO WHICH THE US WAS DEVOTING SO MUCH ATTENTION. MANY NATIONS AS A MATTER OF POLICY SIMPLY DID NOT WANT TO BE BOUND BY A REGIME WHICH THEY REGARD AS DISCRIMINATORY AND ELITIST.

4. YUGOSLAV PAPER ON NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY - NIGERIA SUPPORTS THE GENERAL APPROACH OF THE YUGOSLAV PAPER. INDIA, CLARK OBSERVED, WAS CLEARLY UNHAPPY WITH THE YUGOSLAV INITIATIVE SINCE IT HAD LITTLE INTEREST IN SHARING ITS KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH OTHER NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES.

5. SSOD - CLARK BELIEVED THAT THE SPECIAL SESSION WILL PROVIDE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO ARTICULATE A COHERENT PROGRAM OF DISARMAMENT PRIORITIES. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE MAJOR POWERS COULD NOT COMMIT THEMSELVES TO A SPECIFIC TIMETABLE FOR DISARMAMENT MEASURES. NIGERIA WOULD WELCOME A STATEMENT ON CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES ON THE HELSINKI MODEL PROVIDED THAT ITS OBLIGATIONS (E.G., NOTIFICATION OF TROOP MOVEMENTS) WERE ACCEPTED BY ALL COUNTRIES. HARRIMAN SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED SOUTH AFRICA.

6. SSOD/WDC - NIGERIA HAS LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR A WDC, BUT WENT ALONG WITH THE MAJORITY AT THE NACCFM IN CALLING CONFIDENTIAL

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FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION TO CONSIDER INTER ALIA "THE QUESTION OF CONVENING A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE." THE YUGOSLAVS, HE ADDED, WERE ALSO UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS REFERENCE.

7. CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS - CLARK SAID THAT THE US HAD ADDRESSED THIS PROBLEM IN A MECHANICAL MANNER BY FOCUSING ONLY ON THE QUANTITATIVE INCREASE IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS IN RECENT YEARS. THIS APPROACH DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE REQUIREMENT OF DEVELOPING NATIONS TO HAVE THEIR OWN DEFENSE CAPABILITY, THE FACT THAT MANY AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS ARE RUN BY MILITARY REGIMES AND THE FACT THAT WESTERN NATIONS WHICH URGE RESTRAINT IN ARMS TRANSFERS ARE THEMSELVES MAJOR ARMS PRODUCERS. NIGERIA WELCOMED THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT STATEMENT ON THE DESIRABILITY OF REDUCING LEVELS OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS. BOTH HARRIMAN AND CLARK FELT THAT NIGERIA WAS SPENDING TOO MUCH OF ITS NATIONAL BUDGET ON DEFENSE. HARRIMAN SAID THE NIGERIAN ARMY WAS TOO LARGE, WHILE ITS OFFICER CORPS WAS TOO SMALL AND INADEQUATELY TRAINED.

7. THE UN COMMITTEE OF 25 - HARRIMAN SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO CONVENE THE UN COMMITTEE OF 25 NNWS IN NEW YORK ON MAY 2. HE HOPED THAT THE US WOULD MAKE A PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE AND WOULD ALSO URGE THE OTHER NUCLEAR POWERS TO DO LIKEWISE. HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO REPEAT LAST YEAR'S EXPERIENCE IN WHICH ONLY AMBASSADOR MALIK HAD MADE A STATEMENT TO THE COMMITTEE. HE SAID HE HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND USUN OFFICER KATZEN.

8. CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW) - CLARK SAID THAT HE WAS PUZZLED BY THE RECENT STATEMENT OF THE US REP TO THE CCD WHICH WAS CRITICAL OF THE UK PAPER ON CW. HE THOUGHT THE US HAD REGARDED THE UK TEXT AS A GOOD START. CLARK SAID HE HAD DIFFICULTY IN ESTABLISHING A DIALOGUE WITH THE US REP.

9. US DISARMAMENT POLICY - HIRSCH TOLD CLARK THAT THE
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NEW ADMINISTRATION WAS CONDUCTING A REVIEW OF ITS OVERALL APPROACH TO DISARMAMENT ISSUES. HE HOPED THAT CLARK WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE US APPROACH IN FURTHER DETAIL WITH AMBASSADOR LEONARD DURING THE 32ND UNGA. CLARK WELCOMED THE SUGGESTION.
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